

Message Text

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51

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 OIC-04 AF-10

ARA-16 NEA-11 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 /175 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3000

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, VN, NL

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR

REF: A. STATE 32618

B. THE HAGUE 777

1. SUMMARY: GON WILL NOT BE DISSUADED FROM ITS
DECISION TO ABSTAIN REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF PRG
IN CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR. (THIS INFORMATION WAS
CONVEYED TO US MISSION GENEVA BY TELEPHONE MID-DAY
FEBRUARY 20.) END SUMMARY.

2. IN ACCORDANCE REF A, CHARGE MADE DEMARCHE MORNING
OF FEBRUARY 20 TO STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KOOIJMANS, RECALLING EARLIER EMBASSY APPROACH THIS
SUBJECT (REF B) AND URGING THAT GON PUBLICLY OPPOSE
INVITATION TO PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.

3. AFTER CHARGE REVIEWED IN DETAIL REASONS FOR US
OPPOSITION TO PRG PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE,
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KOOIJMANS SAID GON COULD NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRG

PARTICIPATION SINCE PRG WAS NOT A STATE, BUT ON OTHER HAND GON WOULD NOT VOTE AGAINST ITS PARTICIPATION. HE DESCRIBED STATUS OF PRG AS HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL AND NOT EASILY DEFINABLE, BUT SAID GON FAVORS PRESENCE AT THIS PARTICULAR CONFERENCE OF ALL GROUPS WHO HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN RECENT WARS. GON HAD WONDERED IN WHAT CAPACITY PRG COULD BE REPRESENTED, SINCE IT DID NOT QUALIFY AS LIBERATION GROUP NOR WAS IT A MEMBER OF A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. GON DID NOT FEEL CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL LAW SHOULD BE APPLIED IN THIS SITUATION, AND THAT PRG SHOULD BE PRESENT AT CONFERENCE IN SOME CAPACITY. IT THEREFORE HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT GON WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE ISSUE.

4. CHARGE REGISTERED US CONCERN THAT UNLESS DUTCH AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS SPOKE OUT IN OPPOSITION TO PRG PARTICIPATION, BANDWAGON PSYCHOLOGY WOULD TAKE HOLD AND PRG WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. HE DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL WARFARE AND LARGE-SCALE TERRORISM PRACTICED BY PRG.

5. KOOIJMANS DID NOT AGREE THAT PRG AND JAPANESE RED ARMY WERE COMPARABLE AND CONTINUED THAT PRG - WHATEVER KIND OF ENTITY IT MIGHT BE- SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN ITS APPARENT EVEN THOUGH QUALIFIED WILLINGNESS TO ADHERE TO SOME CODE OF BEHAVIOR IN WARFARE.

6. CHARGE OPINED THAT ADMISSION OF PRG TO CONFERENCE WOULD STRENGTHEN ITS INTRANSIGENCE IN NEGOTIATING WITH GVN. KOOIJMANS RESPONDED THAT HE SAW NO CHANCE FOR CREATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM IN NEAR FUTURE AND THEREFORE SAW VIRTUE IN PRG ADHERENCE TO SOME CODE OF BEHAVIOR. CHARGE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT THROUGH ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE PRG COULD BE PERSUADED TO ADHERE TO ACCEPTABLE CODE OF BEHAVIOR.

7. KOOIJMANS THEN TURNED TO PROBLEM OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE. HE SAID EARLIER HOPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT FORMULA COULD BE FOUND WHEREBY PLO, AS MEMBER OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, MIGHT ATTEND CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT IF JORDAN DIDN'T REQUEST VOTE ON QUESTION PLO ATTENDANCE, ISRAEL WOULD. HE DREW CONTRAST BETWEEN PLO, WHOSE TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS ARE UNKNOWN, AND OTHER MOVEMENTS - INCLUDING PRG- WHOSE TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS HAVE BEEN DEFINED.

TANGUY

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